

City of Fitchburg Disability Commission Meeting

Date	July 13, 2016
Location	Library Garden Room

Commission Members:

Name	Present	Absent	Remote
Jeffrey Wolfgang	X		
Bill Tolos	X		
Doris Matte		X	
Mary Ann Guichard	X		
Sheela Tallamraju	X		
Sharon Tardiff		X	

Guest: Amy LeBlanc, Carolyn Quirk & Carolyn Gordon - Regional Manager for the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

Meeting commenced at 10:11 a.m. Carolyn Quirk & Nick Carbone attended as guests and are interested in becoming members of the Disability Commission. Kathy Hamelin was not able to attend due to a prior commitment and wanted to stay in the loop of the commission meetings.

Item 1: Jeff Wolfgang went over the minutes from May 11th & June 8th 2016. Motion Passes to accept the minutes for May & June meetings.

Jeff went over announcements that were happening in Boston -The 2016 Disability Summit is being held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center on 09/16/2016 - 415 Summer Street, Boston, MA. 02210. RSVP by calling 617-727-7440.

Email to: MOD-Events@state.ma.us

Item 2: Accessible Playgrounds and Equipment: The committee for the playground had a table at the 4th of July city wide block party. They are seeking donations for their noble cause.

Item 3: Housing /Wallace Towers:

The pothole in front of the building has been patched. Jeff's meeting with Mr. Peter Proulx director of the housing authority for Fitchburg was very productive.

Jeff will have all four entities - The Police Department, the Fire Department, The Housing Authority & the Disability Commission discuss the needs for people with mobility impairments. Jeff will try to advocate to come up with a plan to help the Police and Fire Departments have emergency information regarding people with disabilities living in Fitchburg, starting with the high rise buildings. Doris, Guich & Nick Carbone will assist Jeff in this process.

Item 4: Education/ Subcommittee - SPED. The subcommittee will plan to meet with friends of the commission in the next two weeks and report to the commission.

Item 5: Curb Cuts: None to report for the July meeting.

Item 6: Disability Awareness Event: A special meeting will be held on August 10th 2016 at 10:00 AM to discuss One Agenda Item - the disability awareness event in detail and start pre-planning for next year's event.

Item 7: Commission Structure: The commission feels that they need to have more members in the commission to elect a co-chair. Bill Tolos recommended to revisit the commission structure in September of 2016, after new members are appointed.

Item 8: New Business - Complaint received on Workers Credit Union. Jeff is working on initiating a contact with the bank. Jeff will bring the complaint to their attention. The commission's objective is to work towards a modification with the bank to give secure accommodations for people on wheelchairs to access their safe deposit boxes.

The Sentinel & Enterprise article dated June 25th 2016 indicated that the Handicapped Parking fines in Leominster are \$200.00 and it was raised by \$100.00. 50% of the money from the fines goes directly to the Leominster Disability Commission.

Currently the Handicapped Parking fines in Fitchburg is \$300.00
The Fitchburg Disability Commission does not have access to the parking violation fines.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

A Special meeting With a One Agenda Item of the Commission is scheduled for August 10th 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the library Garden Room.